NTPC's project in Sri Lanka

†2865. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether NTPC has entered into an agreement with Sri Lanka Government, for setting up a power plant in that country and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the location proposed by Sri Lanka for setting up the plant is a LTTE affected area;

(c) if so, the details of the security arrangements to be made for the officers proposed to be posted in that area; and

(d) whether NTPC or Government have suggested to set up the plant at an alternative location, if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir. NTPC Ltd. has entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) and Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) on 29.12.2006 to set up a 2x250 MW coal based power project in the Trincomalee region of Sri Lanka through a joint venture with CEB on 50:50 basis.

(b) to (d) GoSL had proposed a plant location at Sampoor in Sri Lanka, which was earlier inhabited by Tamils and was reportedly, got vacated by Sri Lankan defence forces about a year back. However, this site being politically sensitive, Ministry of External Affairs and NTPC Ltd., requested GoSL for suggesting an alternate site.

CEB have now identified another suitable location north of Kappalthurai and intimated that all necessary, in-principle, clearances from their internal agencies have been obtained. After the site location is decided, details of security arrangements will be finalized with GoSL in consultation with Indian High Commission in Sri Lanka and Ministry of External Affairs.

Bidding for Kawas and Gandhar projects

2866. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prospective bidders who participated in the International Competitive Bidding by NTPC for supply of gas to its Kawas and Gandhar Power Plants, informed NTPC that the terms and conditions, for supply of gas were against international practices;

(b) whether this has resulted into single offer for pipeline gas, single offer of LNG and single bid for services;

(c) whether failure of bidding process affected commissioning schedule of Kawas and Gandhar power projects during the Tenth Five Year plan and if so, the likely date of commissioning; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.